



City and Residents Commit to Quality-of-Life Projects

In November of 2006, voters in Grapevine approved a one-half cent sales tax increase to fund a Crime Control and Prevention District. The approval freed up substantial funding in the general fund to be used for quality-of-life improvements in Grapevine, including:

Oak Grove Ballfield Complex – The renovation of the ballfield complex is under construction at this time. (If you would like to see construction in progress, please go to www.gvpard.com and click on the camera below the baseball.) The renovation includes the development of nine ballfields, restroom/concession building, parking lots, play area, batting cage, landscaping and an irrigation pond to irrigate the ballfields at Oak Grove Park. Opening day is Saturday, May 2nd.



contents

Parks and Recreation	2
CVB News	4
Tips for Hiring a Good Contractor	5
Passports and Birth Certificates	5
Library News	6
City Officer Election	6
Passports and Birth Certificates	6
Cleaner Greener Grapevine	7
Male Sure Your Vote Counts	7
Avoid the Switch Glitch	7
Recycling Cell Phones and Electronics	8



Oak Grove Soccer Complex Improvements – These improvements include paved parking lots with lighting and landscaping, new play equipment, and a centrally located restroom facility. The irrigation pond that will irrigate the softball fields, soccer fields and baseball fields at Oak Grove Park is located at the Soccer Complex.

Outdoor Warning Siren System – This project involves the replacement of the existing siren system and installation of additional outdoor warning sirens to alert individuals who are outside during periods of severe weather or other emergency situations to seek immediate shelter. Expected completion date is May 2nd.

Projects, cont. on page 5...

Parks and Rec News

The Community Activities Center is located at 1175 Municipal Way. For more information or to register for a class or program, please call 817-410-3450.

Texas Round Up

In affiliation with Texas Round-Up, the City of Grapevine now provides online tracking tools to promote health and fitness and help you stay committed to your workout at no charge to Grapevine residents. Users may participate in the Governor's Challenge by completing and logging 30 minutes of physical activity at least five days per week for six weeks.



CAC Spring Break Camp, March 16-20th

Supervised activities for ages 7-12 include basketball, dodge ball, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, team building exercises and G-rated movie time. Space is limited. Full-day campers must bring a sack lunch. Fee: \$65 per session/\$130 full day. Time: 8 am-12:30 pm and 1:30-6 pm.

NEW! ALLSTAR Fit for Life

This new exercise class is designed especially for folks 55 years and older. This full-body workout is a slower progression of training with a low impact format for those who have no previous experience of being active, may have injuries, or

require low impact activities. Dr. Aaron Gumm will supervise the Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning class, from 6-7 am, with nutritional counseling and weekly health tips.

ALLSTAR Kids

The ALLSTAR program is a safe and effective exercise program for all kids ages 7-16. The program, supervised by Dr. Gumm, focuses on the overall development of today's youth and helps develop balance, coordination, core stability, weight loss, as well as build confidence and team skills. The program includes nutritional counseling and progress reports. This class meets Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 4:45-5:45 pm.

Junior Jazzercise

This is a fun, interactive class on Wednesday evenings from 5-5:45 pm to get kids from ages 8-11 active and learn the importance of exercise and health. The program combines fun, easy-to-follow dance moves to popular music, fitness games, and light strength training.

Special Events

Daddy/Daughter Dance Saturday, February 7th at the CAC

The annual Daddy/Daughter Dance is a magical evening filled with dancing, food, limousine rides, carriage rides, crafts, fun photo opportunities and more.

Daughters to 7 years old celebrate from 4-6 pm, while daughters 8 years and up celebrate from 7-9 pm. Dads with daughters in both age groups may choose to attend either time slot. Tickets are \$12 per person if purchased by February 1st; \$15 afterwards. Tickets will not be sold at the door, and the event does sell out!



Cast for Catfish – FREE! Saturday, March 28th, 8-11 am

Cast your line in the ponds in front of the Church of the Cross Memorial Baptist Church, 3000 William D. Tate, for a morning of fishing and fun. Both ponds will be stocked with a total of 500 pounds of catfish to give children 16 and under the chance to catch the "big one". Prizes will be awarded. Fishing gear, refreshments, fun fishing facts and activities will be provided.

Senior Activities Center (SAC)

AARP Tax-Aide, February 4th - April 15th by appointment

If you need assistance with your taxes, qualified volunteers are available to help those in the low-to middle-income range with special emphasis given to those aged 60 and over. Please call 817-410-3180 for an appointment.

Senior Dances, February 7th and March 7th, 7-9:30 pm

These popular dances are only \$5 per person! It's the best deal in town! Bring a snack to share at intermission.

Computer Class Registration, Monday, March 9th

Walk-in registration is 9 am-noon; registration by telephone is 1-2 pm. A list of free classes may be found on www.gvpard.com in late February.

Senior Golf Tournament, Thursday April 16th, 7:30 am, Grapevine Golf Course

Registration deadline is April 6th; cost is \$55.

FREE! 34th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4th, 10 am sharp!

Mr. and Mrs. Bunny will be scattering thousands of eggs filled with fun at Grapevine's annual egg hunt at the Grapevine High School practice fields (off Highway 26). Other free activities include face painting, bunny ears, bounce houses and more.



Mother/Son Hoe-Down, Saturday, March 7th, 7-9 pm.

Grab your sons/grandsons/newphews and bring them to the CAC's Spring Hoe-Down for western games, an animal barn, a bounce house, pony rides, and nibbling on light refreshments. Everything is included in the \$8 registration fee.

Keep Grapevine Beautiful (KGVB)

In efforts to promote a Greener, Cleaner, Grapevine, KGVB is proudly hosting a community litter and beautification campaign and recycling event on Saturday, March 7th at both Parr Park (3010 Parr Lane) and Dove Park (1509 Hood Lane). Items being accepted for recycling include electronics, tennis shoes, CROCS, batteries, cell phones, and printer cartridges. For more information, please visit kgvb.org. Free picnic, live entertainment from Zack King Band, and prizes for all participants!

\$5 Meals: Learn how to feed your family for less than \$5 per meal, Saturday, February 21st.

Join Erin, the web's \$5 Dinner Mom, to learn strategies for significantly cutting your family's food budget and secrets to making nutritious meals within a \$5 budget. Two sessions, 10 am or 1:30 pm, are offered for \$5 per person. Recipes and fun included.

Early Learners' Day Out Academic Preschool Program

Children 3-5 Years - Pre-K/K curriculum. Classes cover phonics, reading, spelling, writing, counting, early arithmetic, basic science concepts and group activities to develop fine motor skills. This is an ongoing program; you may pay month-to-month and begin any month. Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday options are available. Times and fees are: 9-11 am, \$139; 9 am-noon, \$185; 10 am-noon, \$139. A free trial class is available.

Amateur Photographers Photo Contest

Be a part of the Parks and Recreation Department's inaugural Botanical Gardens at Heritage Park Photography Contest. Age groups include: Children 5-12, youth 13-18, adult 19-54, and seniors 55 and up. Contact Geri at gfooster@grapevinetexas.gov or at 817-410-3470 for more information or to register. Fee is \$18 per person. Once registered, you will receive a contest packet containing rules, brochures, release form, and a photography badge allowing unlimited access to the Garden except during specifically scheduled events. Entries must be received at the CAC no later than 5 pm on Monday, July 27th. Awards presentation is August 15th. 🍇



Leagues and Camps

Leagues & Camps	Registration	Late Registration (10% late fee)	Fee	Season/Session
ADULT LEAGUES				
Winter Indoor Volleyball	Feb. 1-8	Feb. 9-16	\$155/team	
Spring 4 on 4 Flag Football	Feb. 22-Mar. 1	Mar. 2-9	\$236/team	Mar 16-May 4
Spring 8 on 8 Flag Football	Mar. 1-8	Mar 9-16	\$315/team	
Spring Adult Basketball	Mar. 22-29	Mar. 30-Apr. 6	\$340/team	Apr. 13-June 25
Spring Indoor Volleyball-NEW	Mar. 29-Apr. 5	Apr. 6-13	\$145/team	Apr.21-June 16
YOUTH LEAGUES				
Spring Youth Volleyball	Feb. 1-17	Feb. 18-23	\$55/individual resident \$65 indiv. non-resident \$210/resident team \$230/non resident team	Mar. 14-Apr. 25
Spring Youth Basketball	Mar. 1-22	Mar. 23-31	\$75 individual resident \$85/indiv. non-resident \$400/resident team \$420/non-resident team	May 2-June 27
SUMMER CAMPS				
British Soccer Camp - Session 11 at Parr Park	Feb. 1-June 7		\$79-\$104/camper (ages 4-14)	June 8-12 9-10:30 am or 9 am to noon
British Soccer Camp - Session 12 at Parr Park	Feb. 1-July 5		\$79-\$104/camper (ages 4-14)	July 6-10 9-10:30 am or 9 am to noon
Integrity Basketball Camp at CAC	Feb. 1-July 5		\$70/camper (ages 8-11)	July 6-9 1-4 pm

Convention and Visitors Bureau News

To purchase tickets for any of Grapevine's events, or for more information, please visit www.grapevinetexasusa.com.

JUBILEE: February 6th, 6:30 pm, Palace Arts Center.

Join the Fifth Annual Heritage Jubilee, an annual fundraiser to continue restoration in Historic Grapevine. Be prepared to be star struck! Bob Eubanks, legendary host of the original Newlywed Game, will be on hand. Other guests include impersonators John Wayne, Elizabeth Taylor, and more. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 817-410-3547.

SWEETHEART EXPRESS: February 13th and 14th, train departs at 6 pm, Cotton Belt Depot. The magic begins before the ride even starts as strolling violinists perform for passengers on the platform. The Sweetheart Express includes hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed by a romantic dinner and dancing at River Ranch in Fort Worth Stockyards. During the return trip from the Stockyards to Grapevine, passengers will receive special gifts of chocolates and a rose.

THE SOUND OF TEXAS MUSIC SERIES – Monte Montgomery and Band: February 13th, 7:30 pm at the Palace Theatre. Renowned for his electric acoustic guitar performances, Montgomery has been called "one of the top 50 all-time greatest guitarists." Opening Band: Rahim Quazi

THE SOUND OF TEXAS MUSIC SERIES – Paul Slavens and His Texclectic Band: February 20th, 7:30 pm at the Palace Theatre. From the fertile North Texas jazz scene, an evening at a Paul Slavens show is a one-of-a-kind event. Possessing a unique skill for making something out of nothing, Slavens takes song title suggestions from the audience and turns them into full-blown compositions while the audience watches, listens and laughs. Don't miss it!

FIRST FRIDAY FILM SERIES – Silverado: March 6th, 7:30 pm at the Palace Theatre. Tickets are \$7.50, or bring in a same-day receipt and get \$2.50 off movie admission.

THE SOUND OF TEXAS MUSIC SERIES – An Evening with Sara Hickman: March 13th, 7:30 pm at the Palace Theatre. Distinguished by her gorgeous, incandescent songs and fiercely independent spirit, Sara brings what she loves to do to the Palace stage.



FIFTH ANNUAL CHOCOLATE FEST: March 13th and 14th.

You are certain to sample something from each of the four basic food groups—milk chocolate, dark chocolate, white chocolate

and chocolate truffles—at the Fifth Annual Chocolate Fest in Grapevine. All proceeds benefit Travelers Aid Dallas/Fort Worth, a United Way agency whose mission is to provide information and social services to the DFW Airport community and surrounding communities. Please check the website for the latest information on this event.

SPRING FLING at the Grapevine Vintage Railroad: March 17th through 22nd, Cotton Belt Depot. Grab the gang and take them on the exciting GVRR Spring Fling excursions to the Fort Worth Stockyards. Fun for the whole family!



DAY OUT WITH THOMAS: March 27th-29th and April 3rd-5th at the Cotton Belt Depot. Springtime brings an event that is anticipated by kids of all ages ... Thomas the Tank Engine! With Thomas and Friends, children enter a world of imagination through the tracks of a train and the words of a story. As children embark on an enchanting excursion with their engine friends, adventures quickly unfold. Parents and children enjoy a unique connection on each journey. Brought to you by the Grapevine Vintage Railroad, the Museum of American Railroads and HIT Entertainment. 🍇



Passports and Texas Birth Certificates

The City Secretary's Office in City Hall can help you obtain a Passport or Certified Texas Birth Certificate.

Passport applications are accepted by appointment only from 9 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday. The U.S. Department of State also provides valuable information regarding travel abroad and passport information at www.travel.state.gov

Certified Texas Birth Certificates are available for persons born from 1926 to present (children must be two months old). Cost is \$22 per certificate, and are issued daily from 9 am to 4:30 pm at the City Secretary's Office. Applications may be downloaded online at www.grapevinetexas.gov/depts/citysecretary.

For additional information or to schedule an appointment for a passport, please contact call 817-410-3181. 🍇



...Projects, continued from page 1

Botanical Gardens Parking Lot Expansion –

First United Methodist Church and the City of Grapevine are partnering in the expansion of the parking lot near the Botanical Gardens that will serve both church and Botanical Gardens patrons. Improvements include 127 parking spaces, lighting and landscaping. There will be a large landscaping buffer along Ball Street to screen the parking lot from the residents adjacent to the parking lot. Construction will be complete mid-year.

Bellaire Neighborhood Park – The City purchased two residential lots to the south of the Police Administration Building in 2005. Iron Wood Designs in Grapevine prepared the concept plan of the neighborhood Park in early 2007, and the park was opened on September 6, 2007.

Holiday Decorations - The City purchased additional holiday decorations in an effort to draw tourists to Grapevine for shopping in our stores and dining in our restaurants. According to the merchants in downtown Grapevine, there was a noticeable increase in retail traffic in downtown Grapevine throughout the holiday season. 🍇

Home Sweet Home: Tips for Hiring a Good Contractor

Your home may be your most valuable financial asset. Embarking on a home renovation, improvement or repair helps to add to the value of your home. That is why it is important to be cautious when you hire someone to work on it. Don't be fooled by advertisements, and don't consider the advertisement as an indication of the quality of a contractor's work. Not all contractors operate within the law. Here are some helpful tips put together by the Grapevine Police Department and the Tarrant County District Attorney's office to help protect you from a less-than-reputable contractor:

- Research the Better Business Bureau for any complaints filed against the contract company.
- Verify the contractor's credentials.
- Request a list of references and inspect work which has been completed.
- Do not hire a contractor without obtaining a written contract which outlines the specific details.
- Obtain the contractor's name, address, mailing address, phone number and email address.
- Obtain more than one estimate. Compare estimates between three to four contractors.
- Do not hire a contractor who gives you a really low estimate to beat the competitors.
- A contract should be signed by the contractor, you and any sub-contractors who might be hired.
- Limit the amount of money paid up front for materials. Established contractors should not need money for



materials. Most established contractors have either a capital base or have loans with material companies. Money should not be paid until completion of the job.

- Verify licenses and permits. Also request a sales tax ID number and verify its existence.
- Keep a journal which will record the progress of the work and also take photographs of the progress.

Upon completion of the work, establish a checklist which must be fulfilled before making payment:

- All work meets the standards established in the contract.
- You have written warranties for the materials and workmanship.
- You have proof that all job site workers, subcontractors and material suppliers have been paid.
- The job site has been cleaned and cleared of excess materials, tools and equipment.
- You have inspected and approved the completed work.
- The contractor has passed all inspections required by the City.

Following these tips may help you protect your valued financial assets. 🍇

Grapevine Library

February

7	2 pm	Name Droppers II
9	10:30 am	Name Droppers
10	7 pm	Small Business Administration
14	10:30 am	DFW Machine Knitters Guild
15	2:30 pm	Quilt Chat
17	7 pm	Jubilee Theatre
19	7 pm	Stories That Move You
21	10:30 am	Parenting—Taming Your Toddler

March

3	7 pm	Internet Marketing for Small Businesses
7	2 pm	Name Droppers II
9	10:30 am	Name Droppers
12	7 pm	Harp Music Concert
14	10:30 am	DFW Machine Knitters Guild
14	2 pm	Art Afternoon for Teens
15	2:30 pm	Quilt Chat
21	10:30 am	Parenting Workshop
26	7 pm	British Emporium Tea Program
28	10:30 am	Intermediate Genealogy Workshop

Business Seminars

The Grapevine Public Library will host seminars for small business owners beginning in February.

Tuesday, February 10th at 7 pm, a representative of the Small Business Administration DFW Office will present information about programs and services that serve prospective, new, and existing businesses. The presentation will highlight local resources in place to provide free one-on-one business counseling, information on technical training available to assist in business operating and management, and details on SBA loan products to provide access to capital through participating lenders. A follow-up program will be presented on Tuesday, April 7th.

Tuesday, March 3rd at 7 pm, marketing twins Randy and Donny Vaughn will share their expertise in a seminar titled "How to Use Email Marketing, Blogging, and Social Media Tools in Branding and Marketing Your Business." Randy is an authorized Duct Tape Marketing Coach and also writes a daily small business blog where small business owners can find practical resources, innovative ideas, and marketing inspiration.

Fine Arts Programs

The Library celebrates Black History Month on Tuesday, February 17th at 7 pm with Jubilee Theatre's presentation of "Words of the Artist," words and music from some of the most historical and influential artists of our time: Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Toni Cade Bambara, Lorraine Hansberry, August Wilson, and Ed Bullins. Jubilee

Theatre operates as Fort Worth's only African-American specific performing arts organization, and is one of only two African-American theatres in the state of Texas producing full seasons.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Grapevine Public Library by attending a concert on Thursday, March 12th at 7 pm. Geoffrey Ricketts from the Geoffrey Harp School will perform a musical program with a focus on Irish music.

Tea Program

Join us at the Library on Thursday, March 26th at 7 pm for complimentary hot tea and biscuits provided by the British Emporium, and learn about different types of tea, health benefits of drinking tea, and how to brew the perfect cup of tea.



Genealogy Workshop

Nancy Maxwell, Genealogy Librarian, will conduct "Finding Females in Your Family Tree," an intermediate-level genealogy workshop, on Saturday, March 28th from 10:30 am to noon in the Program Room at the Library. Attendees should have basic genealogical knowledge beyond the beginner level. The workshop is free and open to the public; attendance is limited to 50 persons and pre-registration is required either by phone at 817-410-3429 or in person at the Genealogy Room.

Taming Your Toddler

The Parenting Center offers free two-hour workshops on the third Saturday of each month from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Library Program Room. Workshops are free, but registration is required through The Parenting Center at 817-332-6348.

Stories that Move You

In celebration of Black History Month, storyteller Esther Malone will be our special Family Storytime guest on Thursday, February 19th at 7 pm for an evening of fun and interactive African folktales.

Art Afternoon for Teens

Middle and high school students are invited to make a multi-media art project on Saturday, March 14th from 2 to 3 pm. This program introduces and reinforces some of the basic principles of art and design. No registration necessary; all materials will be provided. 🍇

GREENER Cleaner Grapevine

Save Water! Nothing Can Replace It

Tips for saving water in the kitchen:

- Load up that dishwasher. Waiting until you have full load to run saves water and energy.
- Don't rinse your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Scraping instead of rinsing dishes before you load them can save you 10 or more gallons of water per load.
- Feed the compost pile, not the garbage disposal. Place food scraps in a container near the sink for later composting. If you do use a disposal, use it less often.
- Install an aerator on your faucet. It will mix air into the flow, while maintaining the pressure. It's inexpensive. You won't

notice the difference in the water flow—but you will cut your faucet water use in half.

- When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running while you wash. Fill the second side of the sink with rinse water instead. Besides, you're fighting a losing battle when you compare washing those dinner dishes by hand (16 – 25 gallons) with today's energy efficient dishwashers (4 to 7 gallons). 🍇



Amazing water fact

The average annual household water use is 127,400 gallons, which is about 350 gallons per day. H2O ouch!

Those little drips add up pretty darn quick

Drops per minute from a leaky faucet	Gallons of water wasted per month
60	259
90	389
120	518

Make Sure Your Vote Counts!

Voters must be registered with the Tarrant County Elections Administration 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to cast a ballot. The Grapevine City Officer Election is May 9th, so voters must be registered by April 9th in order to vote.

To see if you are registered, call the Tarrant County Elections Administration at 817-831-8683. They can also help you with registration and address changes. Voter Registration Applications are available at the Grapevine Library, the City Secretary's Office in City Hall, or online at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter.

Reminder: If you've recently moved to Grapevine, please mail your old card back to your former City so that you may be deleted from their records. 🍇



Avoid the Switch Glitch!

Digital Television Transition Countown...

February 17th is the date that all full-power broadcast television stations in the US will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. If you use any type of antenna to receive over-the-air broadcast, you will need to obtain separate digital-to-analog set-top converter boxes to watch over-the-air TV. For more information and to obtain coupons to be used toward the purchase of a converter box, go to www.dtv2009.gov, or call toll free 888-DTV-2009. 🍇

Tips on Where to Recycle Cell Phones and Electronics

January is one of the busiest times for cell phone and electronic recycling because older equipment is replaced and/or upgraded during the holidays.

Since your trusty cell contains not-so-nice materials like arsenic, lead and zinc, keeping it out of a landfill is a must. Even if you think one phone is too small to do much environmental harm, its power comes in volume—over 1.1 billion phones were sold in 2007 alone.

RadioShack recently announced a new, Online Trade-In Program that allows customers to exchange used, portable electronics for a RadioShack gift card. Items accepted include: Car audio head units, digital cameras and camcorders, game consoles and media, GPS devices, MP3 players, notebook computers and wireless phones. Visit <http://radioshack.cexchange.com> to check your product's trade-in value. If the value is acceptable, you simply mail the equipment (using prepaid shipping labels provided by RadioShack) and receive a gift card within 10 to 14 days.

Or how about donating your old cell phone to a charitable organization. "Cell Phones for Soldiers" turns old cell phones into minutes of prepaid calling cards for U.S. troops stationed overseas. Send your phone to ReCellular (www.recellular.com), which pays the Cell Phones for Soldiers organization for each donated phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad.

The "Call to Protect" campaign (<http://www.wirelessfoundation.org/CallToProtect>) collects wireless phones to benefit survivors of domestic violence. Proceeds from the sale of phones help fund agencies that fight domestic violence and are also used to support the educational efforts of the Wireless Foundation. Other phones are refurbished and become lifelines for domestic violence survivors when faced with an emergency situation.

To find out more about donating cell phones to worthy causes, just enter "Recycle Cell Phones" on your favorite search engine.

Due to the February 17th transition to digital TV, many folks are buying new television sets and don't quite know what to do with the older sets. Goodwill Industries will accept those older sets for recycling. The closest donation location is the Goodwill Super Store at 701 N. Industrial Boulevard, Bedford. 🍇

WHOM TO CONTACT

Animal Control	817-410-3370
City Hall	817-410-3000
City Manager's Office	817-410-3105
City Secretary's Office	817-410-3481
Community Activities Center	817-410-3450
Fire Department	911, 817-410-8100
Municipal Court	817-410-3284
Grapevine Library	817-410-3400
Parks & Recreation	817-410-3470
Police Department	911, 817-410-3255
Public Works	817-410-3330
Senior Activities Center	817-410-8130
Website	www.grapevinetexas.gov

The Grapevine is a publication of the City of Grapevine. Questions regarding this issue should be directed to Jennifer Hibbs, Assistant City Manager, at 817-410-3105 or jhibbs@grapevinetexas.gov. Special thanks to the following staff for their contributions: Linda Huff, City Secretary's Office; Lisa McCowan, CVB; Leigh Burnham and Scott May, Grapevine Public Library; Mona Pimentel, Parks and Recreation; Dewey Stoffels, Public Works; Kim Smith, Police Department; and Pam Kinkema, City Manager's Office.



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GRAPEVINE, TX
PERMIT NO. 58

ECRWSS
Grapevine Resident

The City of Grapevine • PO Box 95104 • Grapevine, Texas 76099 • 817-410-3104 • www.grapevinetexas.gov